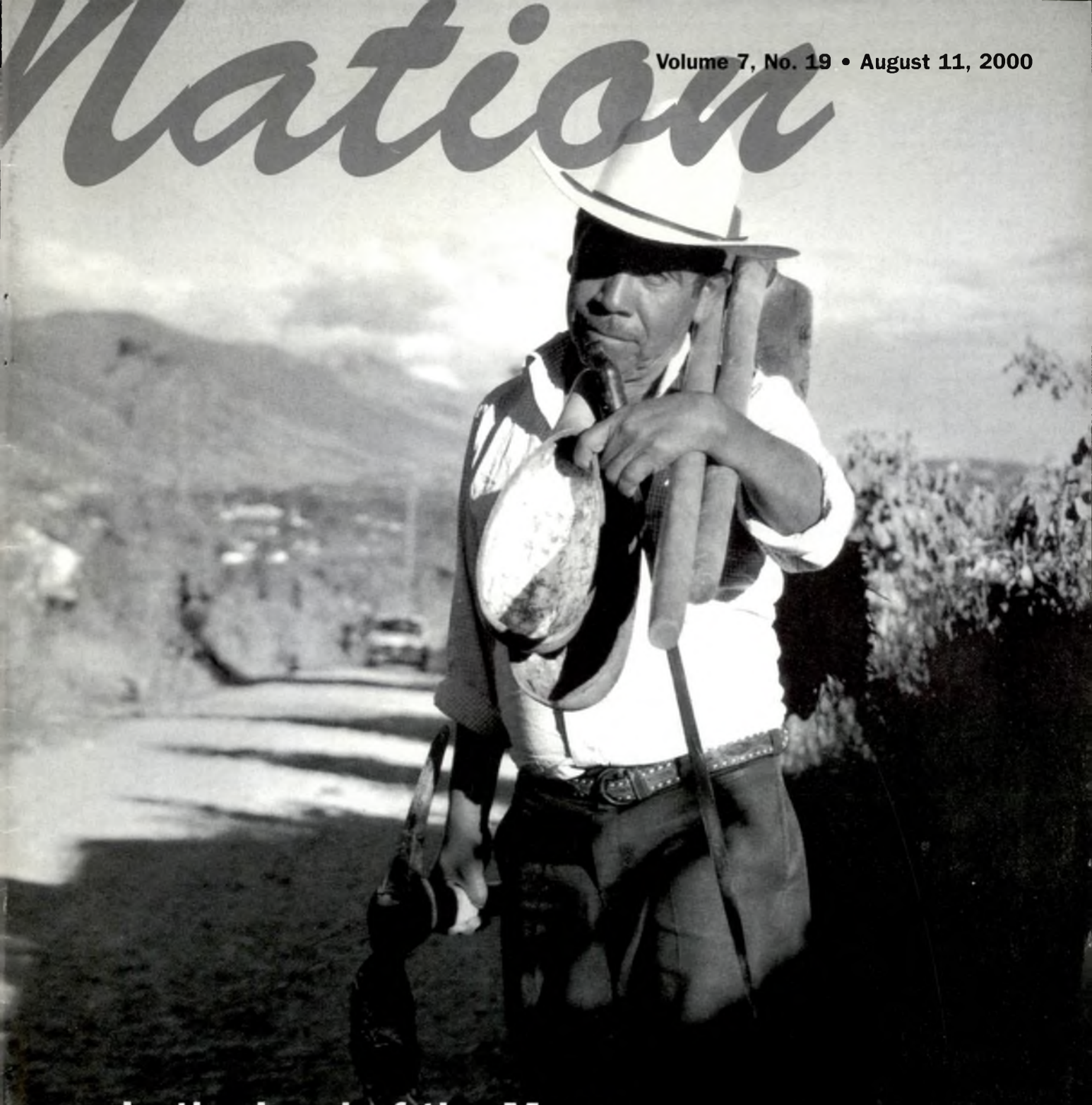
Nation

Volume 7, No. 19 • August 11, 2000



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Fear & questions on the campaign trail?

I must say that Billy Diamond never ceases to amaze me. After refusing to talk to the press on more than one occasion he gave in and talked to L'actualite about the Crees. Cree insiders and most Cree know L'actualite. The popular French magazine published an erroneous story on how Crees had had to hire a huge public relations firm to run our United States campaign for the Crees during the international battle to save the Great Whale River from the clutches of Hydro-Quebec's proposed dams. Pardon me, that's one long run-on sentence for a poor benighted Cree who fought the good fight during that time. I, sure as Betsy, didn't notice no P.R. flack telling me what to do or say. In the past L'actualite also said Crees were all weekend hunters. Obvious catch phrases designed to excite the Quebec public into thinking that Crees were assimilated or somehow not fully Cree anymore it would seem. Doesn't L'actualite even research how many Crees are in the bush and the length of time they are there? Of course these facts for the uniniated might be a little hard to find easily. Perhaps some kind soul from the Cree Trappers Association could send L'actualite some relevant information since they doesn't seem to have a research staff where the Cree are concerned. L'actualites' latest mistakes concerning Creeland can be read on page 5.

That's what really amazed me about Billy. Why did he go to a magazine that on the surface seems to have a bias against Crees to be interviewed? Given that Billy's a self-proclaimed expert on Cree/non-Cree relations wouldn't he have known in what vein the interview would have been seen by both Crees and non-Crees?

It seems to many that the "benevolent tyrant of the North" (as he was called in one long ago news article) has declared war on the Cree leadership and the way they do things. It would also appear he is willing to go to the extreme to get his viewpoints out. Not out in the Cree world but in the non-Cree world. He calls the actions of the Crees pathetic when they rejected Quebec's offer on the forestry deal. He also seems call the fight against Hydro-Quebec's La Grande Complex a mistake. He said it was "an idiotic approach" for him to want to have all the trees grow in Eeyou Istchee. Personally I don't think it's necessarily an idiotic approach to start from that premise and work from there.

The one line he took sure to drum up any type of support is the ever-popular sport of white consultant and lawyer bashing. Nice way to trash the teams that he used and assembled himself in many cases. I know after this I would consider it suicide to work with Billy. After all as they say with friends like this.... One would wonder, why? No one, least of all myself, feels that Billy doesn't have the right to speak about what he wants. Freedom of speech is one of the greatest things there is. I also enjoy the feeling of controversy when the boat is rocked like this. Sometimes we get too complacent and need to be shaken awake every now and again. Of course, as a journalist, I enjoy seeing the full story. The full story wasn't there and bits and pieces were missing. I guess space considerations in L'actualite might have been to blame. As an editor you have to determine what goes in and what just goes. A trust in Mr. Diamond by reporter Luc Chartrand could have led to not verifying the details. It's a hard job either way but it always leaves questions.

I have a few questions myself. Can there trust afterwards between Billy and the Cree leadership when he trashes them two years after working with them? Is he looking for another job of some sort? Is he going back into politics? Will it be Cree politics or a federal or provincial platform? If not Cree politics, then what party will Billy affiliate himself with? What can we expect from Billy's comeback trail in the future?

I trust that in future interviews all will become clear.

by William Nicholls

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ON THE COVER

Old Man in Guatemala

Photographer: Unknown

Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco

UNREZ NOTES

What's In A Name?

According to studies, the first letter of your first name reveals your sexual identity. What do you think?

-A- You are not particularly romantic, but you are interested in action. You mean business. With you, what you see is what you get. You have no patience for flirting and can't be bothered with someone who is trying to be coy, cute, demure, and subtly enticing. You are an up front person. Your mate's physical attractiveness is important to you.

-B- You give off vibes of lazy sensuality. You enjoy being romanced, wined,and dined. You are very happy to receive gifts as an expression of the affection of your lover. You want to be pampered and know how to pamper your mate. You are private in your expression of endearments and particularly when it comes to lovemaking.

-C- You are a very social individual, and it is important to you to have a relationship. You require closeness and togetherness. You must be able to talk to your sex partner before, during, and after. You want the object of your affection to be socially acceptable and good looking. You see your lover as a friend and companion.

-D- Once you get it into your head that you want someone, you move full ahead in pursuit. You do not give up your quest easily. You are nurturing and caring. You are highly sexual, passionate, loyal, and intense in your involvement, sometimes possessive and jealous.

-E-Your greatest need is to talk. If your date is not a good listener, you Have trouble relating. A person must be intellectually stimulating or you are not interested sexually. You need a friend for a lover and a companion for a bedmate. You flirt a lot, for the challenge is more important than the sexual act for you, but once you give your heart away, you are uncompromisingly loyal.

-F-You are idealistic and romantic, putting your lover on a pedestal. You Look for the very best mate you can find. You are a flirt, yet once committed, you are very loyal. You are sensuous, sexual, and privately passionate. Publicly, you can be showy, extravagant, and gallant. You are born romantic. Dramatic love scenes are your favorite fantasy pastime. You can be a very generous lover.

-G- You are fastidious, seeking perfection within yourself and your lover. You respond to a lover who is your intellectual equal or superior, and one who can enhance your status. Your duties and responsibilities take precedence over everything else. You may have difficulty getting emotionally close to a lover, but no trouble getting close sexually.

-H- You seek a mate who can enhance your reputation and earning ability. You will be very generous to your lover once you have attained a commitment. Your gifts are actually an investment in your partner. Before the commitment, though, you tend to be frugal in your spending and dating habits and equally cautious in your sexual involvement. You are a sensual and patient lover.

-I- You have a great need to be loved, appreciated... Even worshipped. You enjoy luxury and sensuality. You are fussy and exacting about having your desires satisfied. You are willing to experiment and try new modes of sexual expression. You bore easily and thus require sexual adventure and change. You are more sensual than sexual, but you are sometimes downright lustful.

-J- You can be very romantic, attached to the glamour of love. Having a partner is of paramount importance to you. Brains turn you on. You must feel that your partner is intellectually stimulating, otherwise you will find it difficult to sustain the relationship. You require loving, cuddling, wining, and dining to know that you're being appreciated.

-K- You are totally marvelous!

-L- You are very romantic, idealistic, and somehow you believe that to love means to suffer. You wind up serving your mate or attracting people who have unusual troubles. You see yourself as your lover's savior. You are sincere, passionate, lustful, and dreamy. You can't help falling in love.

-M- You are emotional and intense. When involved in a relationship, you throw your entire being into it. Nothing stops you; there are no holds barred. You are all consuming and crave someone who is equally passionate and intense. Your supply of sexual energy is inexhaustible. You also enjoy mothering your mate.

-N- You are crap in bed.

-O- You are very interested in sexual activities yet secretive and shy about your desires. You can re-channel much of your sexual energy into making money and/or seeking power. You can easily have extended periods of celibacy. You are a passionate, compassionate, sexual lover, requiring the same qualities from your mate. Sometimes your passions turn to possessiveness, which must be kept in check.

-P- You are very conscious of social proprieties. You wouldn't think of doing anything that might harm your image or reputation. Appearances

Con't page 6

The Nation is published every two weeks
by **Beesum Communications**

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THANKS TO:
Air Creebec

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Publication Mail #0584584
ISSN #1206-2642

***The Nation* is a member of:**
the James Bay Cree Communications Society,
Circle of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers,
Canadian Magazine Publishers Assn,
Quebec Community Newspaper Assn,
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Billy Diamond voted for court action

Minutes of 1999 meeting contradict *L'Actualité* story

It's hard not to walk into a corner store or magazine shop in Quebec without seeing his face.

Plastered on the cover of *L'Actualité*, former Grand Chief Billy Diamond made a big splash in the Quebec magazine denouncing the "parasites who orchestrate the 'Quebec-bashing' of the Crees."

Billy Diamond's main criticism was that the Cree leadership acted in "bad faith" by rejecting a supposedly generous deal on forestry proposed by Quebec.

He said Crees should not have gone ahead last year with the forestry court case against Quebec and the logging industry. Instead, they should have kept on negotiating with Quebec, which was "wide open" to further talks. "The door was wide open in Quebec," he said.

Diamond said it was "dishonest" and "very pathetic" for Crees to return to court last year and demand two injunctions against forestry operations.

But there's something Billy Diamond and journalist Luc Chartrand didn't mention anywhere in the nine-page story: Diamond himself supported the decision to press on with the court case.

It happened at a July 5, 1999, chiefs' meeting in Montreal. The June 30 deadline for a forestry deal with Quebec had passed. Cree leaders had to decide whether to accept Quebec's last offer or return to court. According to the unofficial minutes of the meeting, Diamond and the other leaders all agreed: Crees were going to court.

"There is nothing for the trappers, the money is not enough," Diamond said. "But I don't need any more convincing."

Later at the same meeting, Diamond again said Quebec's offer was no good and he supported the court action.

"Are we going to court to stop forestry? Do we recognize the potential implications of our actions? We must be clear that people will be put out of work and there will be repercussions on all this. If we are ready to deal with this then I am ready to go to court," Diamond said.

"We are still far apart and recycled money is unacceptable," he added.

Diamond even suggested that Crees could use economic pressure to put more leverage on Quebec. "The Crees are an economic force. We could harness this with local sanctions including all the Cree entities," he said.

Near the end of the meeting, Diamond said, "I think John Kitchen should call (Quebec negotiator) Jean-Paul Beaulieu and tell him that the offer was not acceptable. I will do the same with Robert Sauvé (Quebec's deputy minister for Aboriginal Affairs)."

The minutes are also interesting in light of Diamond's allegation in *L'Actualité* that "white agents" are manipulating Crees on forestry. The four non-Crees at the meeting spoke only briefly and were outnumbered by the 11 Cree officials and chiefs.

Diamond did not return calls to his home in Waskaganish or cellphone.

by Alex Roslin

see BILLY DIAMOND, p. 9

I am quite surprised: reporter

Calling Billy Diamond. *L'Actualité* reporter Luc Chartrand wants to speak with you.

Chartrand is the journalist who spent hours interviewing Billy Diamond for a nine-page cover story in *L'Actualité* that slammed the Cree decision last year to go ahead with an injunction in the forestry court case.

Now it turns out Diamond clearly supported that decision himself at a July 1999 chiefs' meeting.

The news left Chartrand stunned. "Oh... Mr. Diamond is in contradiction with himself, according to what you are saying. I am quite surprised to learn that," he said.

"It's extraordinary for me to learn that he said exactly the opposite of what he said to me. It contradicts what Billy Diamond said to me in two interviews, one of three hours, and also on the phone several times," he said. "I am curious to see what he will say."

L'Actualité publisher Jean Paré, for his part, didn't want to discuss the story. He grew angry when questioned about it and told a reporter to write a letter to the editor.

Chartrand said he did his best to verify Diamond's many allegations, but acknowledged that most of his "six or seven" sources spoke off the record. "I took a lot of time to verify everything I could verify. It's verified to my satisfaction," he said.

He said he checked some of Diamond's allegations with Cree negotiator Romeo Saganash, but didn't believe Saganash was credible. "The figures he gave were never reliable," said Chartrand. In fact, Saganash was present at the 1999 meeting at which Diamond and all the other Cree leaders agreed to press on with the forestry lawsuit.

Chartrand also said he did not verify with anyone else Diamond's allegation that Quebec was still open to further negotiations and possible concessions on forestry. In fact, Quebec was not open to further concessions at all, according to a letter Diamond himself wrote in July 1999.

For Chartrand, it was the last article of his 10-year career at *L'Actualité*. He has left to write a book, then is off to CBC TV. **-A.R.**

count, therefore, you require a good-looking partner. You also require an intelligent partner. Oddly enough, you may view your partner as your enemy; a good fight stimulates those sex vibes. You are relatively free of sexual hang-ups.

-Q- You require constant activity and stimulation. You have tremendous physical energy. It is not easy for a partner to keep up with you, sexually or otherwise. You are an enthusiastic lover and tend to be attracted to people of other ethnic groups. You need romance, hearts and flowers, and lots of conversation to turn you on and keep you going.

-R- You are a no-nonsense, action-oriented individual. You need someone who can keep pace with you. You are turned on more quickly by a great mind than by a great body. However, physical attractiveness is very important to you. You have to be proud of your partner. Sex is important; you can be a very demanding playmate.

-S- You are secretive, self-contained, and shy. You are very sexy, sensual,and passionate, but you do not show this. When it gets down to the nitty-gritty, you are an expert. You know all the little tricks of the trade, can play any role or any game, and take your love life very seriously. You don't fool around. You have the patience to wait for the right person to come along.

-T- You are very sensitive, private, and sexually passive; you like a partner who takes the lead. You fantasize, but do not tend to fall in and out of love easily. When in love, you are romantic, idealistic, mushy, and extremely intense. You enjoy having your senses and your feelings stimulated, titillated, and teased. You are a great flirt. You can make your relationships fit your dreams, often times all in your own head.

-U- You are enthusiastic and idealistic when in love. When not in love, you are in love with love, always looking for someone to adore. You see romance as a challenge. You are a roamer and need adventure, excitement, and freedom. You deal in potential relationships. You enjoy giving gifts and enjoy seeing your mate looking good. Your sex drive is strong and you desire instant gratification. .

-V- You are individualistic, and you need freedom, space, and excitement. You wait until you know someone well before committing yourself. Knowing someone means psyching him out. You feel a need to get into his head to see what makes him tick. You are attracted to eccentric types. Often there is an age difference between you and your lover. You respond to danger,thrills, and suspense.

-W- You are very proud, determined, and you refuse to take no for an answer when pursuing love. Your ego is at stake. You are romantic, idealistic,and often in love with love itself, not seeing your partner as he or she really is. You feel deeply and throw all of yourself into your relationships. Nothing is too good for your lover. You enjoy playing love games.

-X- You need constant stimulation because you bore quickly. You can handle more than one relationship at a time with ease. You can't shut off your mind. You talk while you make love. You can have the greatest love affairs, all by yourself, in your own head.

-Y- You are sexual, sensual, and very independent. If you can't have it your way, you will forgot the whole thing. You want to control your relationships. You respond to physical stimulation, enjoy necking , touching, feeling and exploring. However, if you can spend your time making money, you will give up the pleasures of the flesh for the moment. You need to prove to yourself and your partner what a great lover you are.

-Z- For you, it is business before pleasure. If you are in any way bothered by career, business, or money concerns, you find it very hard to relax and get into the mood. You can be romantically idealistic to a fault and are capable of much sensuality. But you never lose control of your emotions . Once you make the commitment, though, you stick like glue.

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Cree-Naskapi Commission

The Cree-Naskapi Commission wishes to extend a special congratulation to the new National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Mr. Matthew Coon Come.

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La commission Crie-Naskapie

We wish Mr. Coon Come all the best in his journey in dealing with community issues that many First Nations are facing within this new Millenium.

FOREST FIRE FORCES 248 TO EVACUATE

A forest fire went out of control five kilometres south of Whapmagoostui on Sunday, July 31, at 3 p.m.

High winds forced the community to declare a state of emergency at 5 p.m.

As a result, the Canadian Armed Forces were called in to assist with the initial evacuation.

A total of 248 people were evacuated by the military via three Hercules aircraft. Hydro-Quebec sent two Conveyors and Air Inuit a 748 to assist in the evacuation.

"Winds were high and the fire was out of control," said Deputy Grand Chief Matthew Mukash, one of the members of the Whapmagoostui emergency team.

Mukash said the smoke was heavy and the fire was coming close to the community.

"Some experts told us the flames were 10 metres high and that was dangerous," said Mukash.

Sonny Orr of Whapmagoostui said, "It spread like wildfire.

"We sent out those people with medical condition, Elders, pregnant women and small babies and children," said Mukash.

This filled up available space in Chisasibi and Radission so they held off on evacuating the rest of the community.

The Canadian Forces Hercules stayed in Whapmagoostui just in case there were problems, but rain had started falling and killed the high flames.

At 7:30 p.m., an ariel survey followed by a team of 27 men on foot and on four-wheelers checked out the fire.

There was still some danger as there were some hotspots.

Hotspots are when the roots are burning below ground.

By Monday afternoon the wind had shifted and weather reports said it would stay that way for a few days, along with the rain.

"No one was seriously hurt," said Mukash.

The only injuries were suffered by two firemen, one who had mild second-degree burns on the arm and face with the other being only slightly hurt, said Mukash. Two camps were burnt in the fire.

"We're lucky there was the rain and the wind didn't shift," said Mukash, adding that in the community it was unnerving to see the flames from the fire.

At one point the area on fire covered two-and-a half by one-and-a-half kilometres.

A watch was kept through Sunday night. People returned back to the community on Tuesday, August 2.

"We didn't have an evacuation plan, so we made one up on the spot," said Mukash, adding, "I'm very impressed by the way things turned out in the end."

by William Nicholls

Charly Washipabano goes national

Charly Washipabano had the surprise of his life when a letter arrived at his home in Chisasibi one day in July.

The 18-year-old was told he'd been chosen for Team Indigenous, an elite squad created and coached by Ojibway hockey legend Ted Nolan.

Washipabano was joining 22 other Native teenagers from across Canada as a founding member of the Major A-level team, which is representing Canada at the top-calibre Universal Players Hockey Tournament in Finland from Aug. 4 to 11.

After a three-day hockey camp in Thunder Bay, Ont., the youths flew off to Finland to compete against the best up-and-coming hockey talent in the world.

Teams are flying in from Russia, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Germany and the United States. Team Indigenous is the only Canadian crew.

"This can't be real," Washipabano thought when he first saw the letter. At the end, there was another surprise. The letter was signed by Ted Nolan. "He has been a rolemodel of mine for a few years now," Washipabano said.

The team is Nolan's brainchild. Winner of the 1997 NHL Coach of the Year Award, Nolan was assistant coach of the Hartford Whalers and head coach of the Buffalo Sabres for two seasons. Before that, he played pro hockey for seven years — including stretches at the Detroit Red Wings and Pittsburg Penguins — until a back injury forced him off the ice.

Nolan has also devoted a lot of his time over the past 20 years to meeting Native kids and talking to them about life.

Last year, he married these two passions -- hockey and helping youth -- into the idea of a national hockey program for Native kids. He got enthusiastic support from the Assembly of First Nations.

The idea wasn't just to develop Native athletic talent, but also to help youngsters

see TEAM INDIGENOUS, p. 9

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Congratulations

Matthew Coon-Come on your election to National Chief and best wishes in your future endeavours.

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Ouje-Bougoumou Congratulates Matthew Coon-Come On his election to National Chief!

Billy Diamond...

continued from page 5

Grand Council official Romeo Saganash, who was present at the July 5, 1999, meeting, confirmed that Diamond said Quebec's offer was unacceptable and that he supported the Cree court action. He said he "was stunned" when he saw the story in *L'Actualité*.

Saganash said he told reporter Luc Chartrand that he'd be wise to verify Diamond's allegations, but added, "His mind was made up before I even had the interview with him."

Diamond met with Sauvé and Beaulieu in Quebec City on July 6, the day after the chiefs' meeting.

Diamond summarized the discussions at this meeting in a July 8 letter to then-Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, which was cc'ed to all the Cree chiefs.

Diamond's letter reiterates his rejection of Quebec's offer and also makes it very clear that Quebec was not open to further concessions.

Again, this contradicted the statements attributed to Diamond in *L'Actualité*.

"I gave a description of the deliberations of the Chiefs on this matter including the 11 reasons for rejection and confirmed that the offer presented was unacceptable," wrote Diamond.

"The Chiefs had concluded that they were not prepared to support a continuation of the negotiations based on the offer before them. They were now ready to proceed against Quebec in court."

Far from being open to more concessions, Diamond reported that Quebec was barely willing to endorse the deal already on the table.

He wrote that the two Quebec senior officials were "shocked," "angered" and "distraught" at the Cree decision.

"(Beaulieu) said that he had gone out on a limb to reach a deal, risking his own career in the process," Diamond wrote. "He admitted he had even 'cheated' his own government a bit to jack up the monetary offer in an effort to reach an agreement with the Crees.

"He truly believed he could have sold the package to the government had there been an agreement. He was prepared to live with the consequences if the government did not accept his offer.

"When asked if he thought Quebec would still consider a higher monetary offer, he replied, 'never,'" Diamond wrote.

"His mind was made up before I even had the interview with him": Romeo Saganash.

Team Indigenous...

continued from page 7

deal with social problems. "We're not trying to develop professional players. We're trying to change lives through hockey," Nolan told *The Nation*.

"We have a lot of talented kids, very talented. But for some reason, some of them lose their path along the way. We want to help them straighten out their path. We have to get our kids staying in school."

Nolan recalled his own humble beginnings growing up in Garden River, northern Ontario, with no indoor plumbing, no heat and sometimes not enough to eat. "Somehow I fought through that and made it to the NHL. I didn't have that much talent," he said modestly. "But I knew how to work. If I could do it, geez, anyone can."

Nolan hopes Team Indigenous will be a long-term project. He also wants to develop a girls' hockey program and national Bantam and Midget championships.

Meanwhile, Charly Washipabano's eyes are set on Finland. Playing hockey far from home since age 11, it's a dream come true.

"This could be a major turning point," he said. "I never expected it. I'm really psyched."

-BY ALEX ROSLIN

UN creates permanent indigenous forum

The United Nations has decided to create the first permanent forum on indigenous rights that will give the world's Aboriginal peoples their first high-level representation in the UN system.

UN officials called the decision historic, noting that indigenous people have been seeking reprsentation on the international level since they first approached the League of Nations in the early part of the 20th century.

Grand Chief Ted Moses and Matthew Coon Come, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, were on hand the day of the decision.

Indigenous leaders have been campaigning for a UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People to affirm indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and land. Their campaign has run into strong opposition from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The forum will be a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council, one of the main organs of the United Nations after the Security Council and General Assembly.

It will consist of 16 representatives. Half will be nominated by governments and half by the president of ECOSOC after consulting with indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples, governments and other organizations will be allowed to participate in the forum's deliberations as observers.

In the LAND of the MAYA

From craggy mountaintops to humid jungles, Guatemala's indigenous majority lives in a country of breathtaking physical and cultural diversity that is struggling to free itself from an apartheid-like legacy.

By Finola Shankar

María Pascual, a small and timid Q'anjob'al woman from the northern Guatemalan village of Yulmacap, tells me through an interpreter that she has seven children. Seven living children, that is. She has lost five others to malnutrition, sickness and war.

María's story is far from unique. In Guatemala poverty is a way of life for 80 percent of the country's 11 million people. Indigenous people like María have been among the most excluded from development throughout the Americas, and have been the target of discrimination for over 500 years.

The exploitation and slaughter of Guatemala's indigenous people, the majority of whom are Maya, did not end with the colonial period. In fact a long 36-year civil war only formally ended in December 1996, with the signing of a "firm and lasting peace."

The war was the result of many complicated factors, but its roots lay in the fact that a small minority flourished at the expense of the development of the vast majority. In rural areas there is little infrastructure; roads, schools and medical care are only slowly now starting to penetrate isolated mountains.

Even now, in departments with over 75 percent indigenous people, illiteracy rates are over 50 percent, over 40 percent of houses don't have running water, nearly nine in 10 don't have sewage drainage and over two-thirds don't have electricity.

Compounding a lack of access to services is the fact that since their "discovery" by Europeans, indigenous populations have been pushed off the best and most productive lands. Today, three percent of the population owns two-thirds of the most fertile lands –concentrated in large export plantations. Meanwhile, 90 percent of the population works one-sixth of the land.

The concentration of land in the hands of the wealthy has led to the creation of a large pool of landless or

nearly landless peasants who are forced by economic necessity to seasonally migrate to large plantations to harvest coffee, cotton, bananas and sugar cane.

On these plantations, companies like Del Monte continue to violently threaten union leaders who demand fair wages and decent working conditions. This January, the government announced it will increase wages. It has already committed to improving basic infrastructure, and since the end of the war many national and international development agencies have been trying to provoke change in the most marginalized areas.

But change is slow, the basic causes for the war remain and no politicians are willing to look at real redistribution of land. The balance of power is still held by a small but powerful minority.

POVERTY AMID RICHES

What has always fascinated me about Guatemala is that despite historical neo-colonialism, slaughter and assimilation, 65 percent of the population is still indigenous.

Guatemala is a small country, about the size of Ohio, tucked between Mexico, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador, and bathed by both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Despite its size, Guatemala's cultural, linguistic, and physical diversity are breath-taking.

While indigenous peoples make up a clear majority, they are comprised of 21 distinct Maya linguistic communities and an unrelated group of Xincas. The Garifuna, descendants of Africans, make up another visible minority group.

The last major group of people in Guatemala, who have made up the ruling class since the arrival of the Spaniards, are the Ladinos or Mestizos. They are descendants of European, mostly Spanish, immigrants, or are a mixture of indigenous and non-indigenous people who no longer identify as Maya or Xinca.

Even though pockets of indigenous people are found across the country, Maya people are really concentrated in the Western highlands, a mountainous area where many sought refuge from colonialism and war and where they continue to etch a meager living out of quickly eroding soils.

While craggy mountaintops cover much of Guatemala, it encompasses several different bioclimatic zones, ranging from hot, humid jungles in the Peten and the south coast to the colder pine-covered highlands, and also boasts rich volcanic soils, fertile lowland plains and abundant natural resources.

Guatemala is a rich land, both culturally and in terms of resources, but its people have been made poor by history, war and politics.

Not many people had heard about the injustices facing indigenous people in Guatemala until a young K'iche' woman named Rigoberta Menchu published a testimony that won her the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1992.

> As Juana tearfully talks about the "the sorrows she has lived," she sighs, "God-willing, life will be easier for my daughter."

In the book I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala, she spoke of the poverty and lack of access to land that her family and her people faced. She described how one of her brothers died of malnutrition when her family was working on a big plantation, and how another died of pesticide poisoning on a coffee plantation. She also detailed how both her parents and another brother were killed during the war, branded as guerrillas and communists, and how she, like many Guatemalans, fled to Mexico to avoid death.

Menchu had long been active in the Peace Process, which has seen the return of many Guatemalan refugees from Mexico and the resettlement of many of those displaced within the country.

The foundations of the Peace Process were shaken in May 1999. A referendum was held to gain official recognition of Guatemala as a pluricultural, multiethnic and multilingual country, to increase indigenous rights, to create a new police force and curb military power. Over 80 percent of Guatemalans did not vote. And while Maya areas supported the proposed changes, their numbers did not exceed the Ladino vote in the capital and south-eastern departments. As a result, the referendum failed, highlighting the racism that still exists in Guatemala.

The "no" vote was an unexpected setback for Maya leaders, especially because it happened after the release of the report of the United Nations-sponsored Commission for Historical Clarification (in Spanish, Comisión para el Esclarecimiento Histórico, or CEH). The CEH report, fittingly titled Memory of Silence, was based on an inquiry into the civil war that claimed 200,000 Guatemalan lives, mostly civilians. Four in five of the dead were Maya.

The report blamed the government for 93 percent of the human-rights abuses during the civil war.

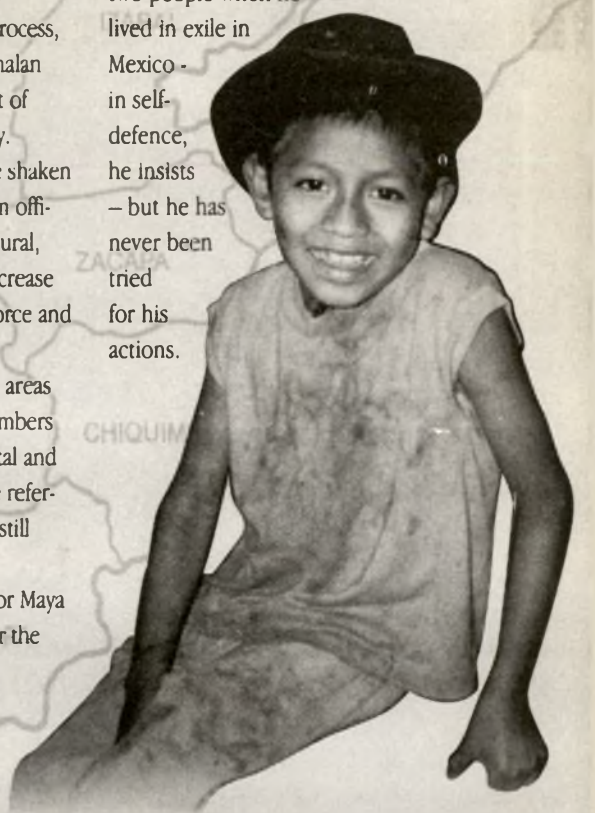
To be indigenous was enough to be branded a guerrilla or at least a "communist" sympathizer. This blanket comparison allowed the army to target anyone who spoke out against the state or who threatened the local elite and foreign interests.

Some 450 communities were erased from the map, and state forces stand accused of 626 massacres and acts of genocide against the Maya people between 1981 and 1983 alone.

Newly released U.S. government documents show that the CIA helped the Guatemalan government organize death squads to target the civilian population.

Gruesomely dismembered remains are still being uncovered across the countryside, but it is many of these same rural areas where Rios Montt and the right-wing Guatemalan Republican Front triumphed in the most recent national elections.

I am not the only one who is confused by the recent elections in Guatemala. The newly elected president, Alfonso Portillo, admits that he killed two people when he lived in exile in Mexico - in self-defence, he insists – but he has never been tried for his actions.



And the new president of Congress, Ríos Montt, was the Head of State during the darkest and most atrocious period of the country's history. Menchú is currently trying to start a legal battle against him and other heads of state who were responsible for genocide over the course of the war.

Those in power in Guatemala have never been representative of, or responsible to, the indigenous and rural majority. At least on a municipal level, these elections saw indigenous politicians elected to just over a third of the mayoral positions, a sign that the government is becoming a little more representative and hopefully will be a bit more responsible to its people.

On the other hand, only one mayor in the whole country is female and only 16 percent of the deputies in the nation's Congress are indigenous. Even with slowly increasing indigenous representation, it is doubtful that the ruling party – which holds an overwhelming majority of seats in Congress -- will see much successful opposition.

Development by education

With all the contradictions that face Guatemalans, I am left wondering how they will be able to rise above such a flawed system and be able to develop themselves socially, culturally and economically. The situation is bleak, but there is hope.

That hope glints in the dark eyes of Victor Hugo López López, an 18-year-old Awakateko boy studying to be a bilingual teacher. Like most Guatemalans, Victor dreams of rising out of poverty and providing a better life for his family. In a few minutes Victor is able to explain to me an important relationship that has not been given enough importance by many foreign-aid and local organizations and government programs. Education is the basis for development.

Victor tells me, "I am studying so I can help my parents. They are sacrificing themselves so I can study, but when I have a job I will repay them. My father never studied, he is a farmer. Through my studies I will be able to help improve production because I can read and write and I understand Spanish. People will not be able to take advantage of me."

Victor says it is important to teach children Spanish and Awakateko so they can "defend themselves against people who speak Spanish but also value who they are." He is lucky enough to attend Instituto Mayance in the town of Aguacatán, in the northern department of Huehuetenango.

It is one of 60 non-governmental bilingual schools in 12 different linguistic areas that are supported by the autonomous National Council of Maya Education (CNEM) or one of its 27 member Maya organizations.

These schools are not as crowded or as understaffed as official bilingual schools. They do not embody the discrimination and desire to turn indigenous children into Ladinos, and they are beginning to use a Maya curriculum, developed by CNEM and its members, that is based on the reality of indigenous communities, rather than Ladino models.

One of the courses offered at Instituto Mayance is community development. Emiliano Rodríguez, an Awakateko bilingual teacher, enthusiastically says, "Awakatekos are starting to work in institutions and on development projects in Aguacatán. Things are changing."

César Teny, a bilingual Q'eqchi' teacher and leader of CNEM, tells me, "When I studied there was a lot of discrimination. It was totally prohibited to speak our own language, and teachers went

to the extremes of hitting and punishing us when we did. This was my past, but it doesn't have to be the same for kids today."

César believes that Maya culture and languages need to be taught to indigenous children. On the other hand, he has seen how many of his students' parents who don't speak Spanish have been manipulated and oppressed by local and foreign interests.

César is hesitant and speaks in hushed tones about his involvement as an indigenous activist in his hometown. In 1995, 16 Q'eqchi' Maya, including César, were arrested in El Estor and charged with sedition after peacefully protesting the arrest of 21 other farmers.

According to the Toronto-based Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America, these farmers had been arrested at the request of EXMIBAL, a mining company 70-percent-owned by Canadian-based Inco Ltd. and 30-percent-owned by the Guatemalan government.

EXMIBAL ran a nickel-processing plant in El Estor in the 1970s. EXMIBAL officials recently blamed local farmers for the "deforestation" of company land. Guatemelan authorities arrested the farmers in September for their alleged involvement in an organized commercial logging operation on EXMIBAL's concession.

César shakes his head, saying the accusation was false: "You don't deforest with a machete. The authorities never charged the large-scale farmers who were removing wood by the truck-load, but poor farmers scavenging for firewood on unused land were thrown in jail and fined."

While the local farmers ended up being charged with fines well over a month's wages, EXMIBAL's operations continued to have negative impacts on Lake Izabal and the surrounding area. César says the politics of mining operations and other mega-projects are complex, but rarely seem to benefit local people.

The Christian Task Force on Central America claims that several Guatemalans opposing EXMIBAL's operations have been threatened and forced into exile, and one was even killed when EXMIBAL was just starting up in the area.

According to an Inco spokesman, the company

does its best to help create an infrastructure for people in poor areas of the world where it has mining operations. He said Inco has helped build roads, schools and sewers. But the company still has to make a profit; the shareholders "still want to make a dollar," he said.

Cesar believes, for his part, that as local people become educated, they are less easily taken advantage of and more aware of their legal rights. With a shy grin, Cesar changes the subject, telling me that Demetrio Cotji, a respected Maya intellectual who last year authored a progressive educational reform, has been appointed as a Vice-Minister of Education.

"This will facilitate Maya education in official bilingual schools and shows good will on the part of the government," he smiles.

Baudilio Diaz, the Director of Education in Huehuetenango who is also a Mam bilingual teacher, echoed this remark himself.

He speaks of a time when "to be a bilingual teacher was seen as being with the guerrilla organizations, so we were afraid and had no support." There have been improvements since then.

Baudilio believes the success of bilingual education rests on the teachers. "If they are committed we will succeed," agrees Blanca Estela Alvarado, a K'iche' Maya who co-ordinates a United Nations-sponsored Maya education team that has assisted CNEM.

Blanca thinks bilingual teachers graduating from CNEM-sponsored-schools will affect change, but her optimism is not shared by everyone.

At La Estancia School, a small elementary school just outside of Aguacatán, four teachers attend to 238 pre-primary and primary students. The school is sponsored by DIGEBI, the Headquarters of Intercultural Bilingual Education, which is the only governmental member of CNEM. DIGEBI can only provide salaries for three of the teachers.

> To be indigenous was enough to be branded a guerrilla or at least a "communist" sympathizer.

The director, Pablo Raymundo Mendoza, tells me that the Grade One teacher, an Awakateka graduate from the Instituto Mayance, is a volunteer. The Grade Two and Grade Four teacher is a Ladina who, after 15 years of service, still does not speak Awakateko.

"It has been difficult for me," the Ladina teacher tells me. "Often the children don't understand. They still don't speak much Spanish."

When I ask the staff if they think committed teachers are the key to successful bilingual education, Pablo sighs. "The authorities demand quality education from us. This is logical, but we are seeing we can't give more than what is humanly possible. For instance, I teach 62 pre-primary children and 12 sixth-graders. Sincerely we are doing what we can, but the numbers are overwhelming."

I am not surprised when the older children tell me that their classes are, for the most part, in Spanish. Nazario Simon, the Grade Three and Five teacher, tells me that while he speaks Awakateko, he does not write it very well. So he does his best with the children.

"I was traumatized as a child when I studied," says Nazario. "We were taught that our cultures and languages weren't worthwhile. We don't do that here. Anabela [the Ladina teacher] may not speak Awakateko, but she respects the children and we do our best to teach them not only their language but their culture."

Instituto Mayance is less chaotic than La Estancia, but enrolment is climbing quickly. "Many Maya schools have suffered serious economic pressures," Blanca, the Maya educator, told me. "But since the signing of peace, international organizations have been a lot more supportive of Maya education."

Instituto Mayance, which offers the equivalent of junior high school and a bilingual teacher-training course, is a good example of this phenomenon.

Sub-director Ruben Raymundo told me that "Instituto Mayance really has a history of struggle." The institute was started by teachers who donated their time, and it still depends on several committed volunteers to make up the 20 teachers that attend to just over 250 students. While they have received financial support from the government of Norway and a CNEM member group in recent years, these sources are never secure. Mariano Rodríguez, the director, shakes his head telling me, "We have had to raise fees, and we are still nowhere near sustainable. We must always be looking for funding."

But here, even amid the economic troubles, one feels the possibilities that real bilingual education can bring. Confident teenagers, most of the young women in traje or traditional dress, mill around on their first day of school speaking in Awakateko. Here there is no fear of hearing a once-common reprimand, "Don't be an Indian!" The sub-director speaks excitedly about the implementation of their Maya curriculum, about their Awakateko and K'iche' teachers, and about increasing female enrolment.

Dora Patricia Raymundo Escalante, a 19-year old student, hopes to work with her father, Pablo, at La Estancia School when she graduates from Instituto Mayance. Dora tells me that when she graduates she will be sure to encourage her female students. "In the home the woman is the first educator, but she is the one who receives the least formal education," Dora says. "It is in the interests of our children that we become educated, so that we can help in their formation."

continued on page 22

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

Best wishes to all this years grads!

MAQUATUA EEYOU SCHOOL

ALBERT TOMATUK	GLEN ASQUABANESKUM
CHESTER SWALLOW	JAMIE GEORGEKISH
SHELDON MARK	SHIRLENE MISTACHEESICK
JULIET MINIQUAKEN	PARSA GEORGEKISH

LUKE METTAWESKUM SCHOOL

PAMELA INNES	VIOLET NEEPOSH
BILLY SWALLOW	PAUL SWALLOW
APRIL TRAPPER	THOMAS WAPACHEE
CATHERINE CHEEZO	MELANIE JOLLY
KRISTEN MOAR	APRIL NEEPOSH
TOMMY NEEPOSH	ANDY WAPACHEE

WABANNUTAU EEYOU SCHOOL

MISTY CHEEZO	ENGLISH
ANDREA MAMIANSKUM	ENGLISH
BESSI MAYAPPO	ENGLISH
LORNA MOSES	FRENCH
MELANIE GILPIN	FRENCH
BETTY TOMATUK	FRENCH

VOYAGEUR MEMORIAL SCHOOL

ROSEANNA BLACKSMITH	ENGLISH
SHIRLEY COONISHISH	ENGLISH
QUEENIE NEEPOSH	ENGLISH
URIAH NEEPOSH	ENGLISH
CRYSTALE PETAWABANO	ENGLISH
DALE PETAWABANO	ENGLISH
AMANDA PEPE	ENGLISH
VALENTINA BRIEN	FRENCH
LYDIA ISHERHOFF	FRENCH
EVADNEY MATOUSH	FRENCH
DAVID NEEPOSH	FRENCH
WESLEY TRAPPER	FRENCH
SARAH VOYAGEUR	FRENCH

OUJE-BOUGOUMOU SCHOOL

NAOMI BOSUM
THOMAS BOSUM
JOLINE DIXON

JAMES BAY EEYOU SCHOOL

JORDAN BOBBISH	ENGLISH
MARGARET HOUSE	ENGLISH
CHRISTINE KITTY	ENGLISH
DANIEL HEBERT-GODIN	FRENCH
BESSIE HOUSE	FRENCH
KEVIN HOUSE	FRENCH
GREGG KANATEWAT	FRENCH
RACHEL LONGCHAP	FRENCH
APRIL MOAR	FRENCH

WILLIE J. HAPPYJACK MEMORIAL

ELTON JOHN COOPER
CONRAD HAPPYJACK
OLIVER ICEBOUND
TERRY JACK KITCHEN
WILMALY NEEPOSH
GEORGE OTTEREYES
MONIQUE SAGANASH
IRENE BLACKSMITH
GABRIEL COOPER
JESSE COOPER
ELEANOR GULL
BOB HAPPYJACK
DANIEL ICEBOUND
WAYNE MATHIAS
ARNOLD NEEPOSH
MELANIE NEEPOSH
NATHANIEL SAGANASH
LEAH SIMARD
CHRISTINA GULL

WINNIBEKUU EEYOU SCHOOL

WANDA CICCANTI	ENGLISH
AMY DIAMOND	ENGLISH
DAVID ERLESS	ENGLISH
RUBEN JOLLY	ENGLISH
SHANNON WHISKEYCHAN	ENGLISH

MICHELLE HESTER (CLASS '97)

MARTINA COWBOY	FRENCH
DALE DIAMOND	FRENCH
MELINDA GEOGEKISH	FRENCH
CATHERINE HESTER	FRENCH
PATRICIA HESTER	FRENCH

RODNEY HESTER	FRENCH
SUSIE HESTER	FRENCH
ANGELA OTTEREYES	FRENCH
JACQUELINE SALT	FRENCH
DALE STEPHEN	FRENCH
SHANNON TRAPPER	FRENCH
JULIANNA WEISTCHE	16+
ROBERT MOAR	16+

RECIPIENTS OF MEMORIAL AWARD & SCHOLARSHIP

APRIL NEEPOSH, NEMASKA
BETTY TOMATUK, EASTMAIN
IRENE BLACKSMITH, WASWANIPI
JOLINE DIXON, OUJE-BOUGOUMOU
CHESTER SWALLOW, WEMINDJI
KEVIN HOUSE, CHISASIBI
JORDAN BOBBISH, CHISASIBI
ANGELA OTTEREYES, WASKAGANISH
WESLEY TRAPPER, MISTISSINI

Continuing Education
Regional Graduation '2000: June 16, 2000
Chibougoumou, Quebec

I **Northern Building Maintenance (1320 hours) Mistissini**

Adam G. Blacksmith	Tracey Isherhoff
Leslie Longchap	Samuel Trapper

II **Truck Driving Class 1 (615 hours) Regional at Forest Montmorency, QC**

Jeffrey Petagumskum	Whapmagoostui
Linda Isherhoff-Cooper	Waswanipi
Simon Etapp	Waswanipi
Jacob Blacksmith	Mistissini
Ernest Nakogee	Mistissini
Wasesquin Gunner	Mistissini
Jason Trapper	Mistissini

III **Accounting (1350 hours) Waskaganish**

Sharon Hester Moar
Laura Trapper Moar

IV **Landscaping (1350 hours) Waswanipi**

John Diamond
Adam Gull
Donna H. Gull
Tina Gunner

V **Data Processing (Use of Materials) (900 hours) Oujebougoumou**

Randa April Kakegamic
Catherine Lamontagne
Angela Shecapio-Blacksmith

VI **Data Processing (Use of Materials) (900 hours) Waswanipi**

Robert Martin
Marcel Rupert

VII **Heavy Equipment Operator (900 hours) Waswanipi**

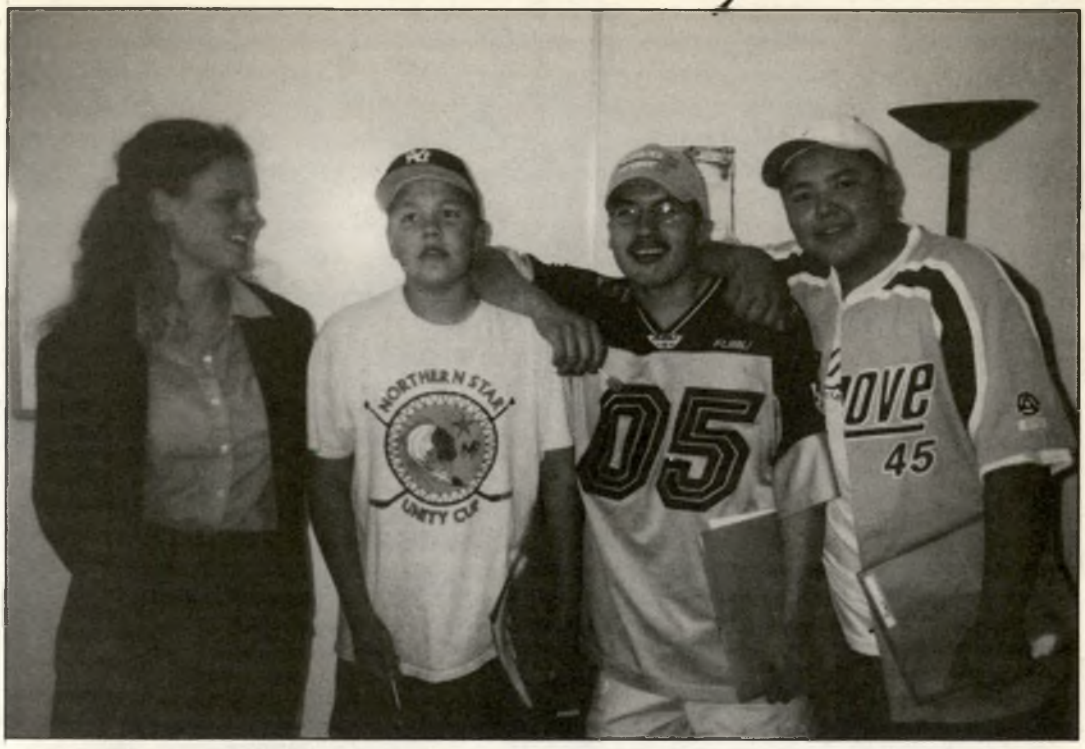
Benny Blacksmith
Marcel Cooper
Abel Kitchen
Peter Longchap
Willie M.Ottereyes

VIII. **Secondary V Graduates (General Education)**

Deanna Mianscum	Mistissini
Keith Bearskin	Chisasibi
Mabel Chewanish-Napash	Chisasibi
Linda Martinhunter	Chisasibi
Karen Neacappo	Chisasibi
Christine Pashagumiskum	Chisasibi
Mary Victoria Ratt	Chisasibi
Rebecca Swallow	Chisasibi
Gloria Bosum	Oujebougoumou
George A. Blackned	Waskaganish
Evelyn Hester Blueboy	Waskaganish
Louis House	Waskaganish
Jean Jacob	Waskaganish
Henry Dixon	Waswanipi

congrats

Trouble Reading?



-Will Nicholls

Lance Blacksmith has made through school with the help of his friends. Lance has an IQ in the 90–percentile range but he has always had a problem reading. No one could teach him to read even though he wanted to more than anything in the world. It's hard to remember that most of the things we do in everyday life involve reading. If you go out to a restaurant, there's the menu, if you have to catch a bus or plane you need to read a schedule and if you need to be somewhere you have to read street names. Whole worlds such as the Internet are closed to you if you can't read or don't have a friend to help you.

Discouragement and poor self–esteem are leading causes in school dropout rates. These lead to other difficulties later in life, which are related to reading failures. Tutors didn't work out but a new program is helping Lance explore a new world that dyslexia had formally closed for him. The program is called SpellRead and Cree students came to Montreal and entered the course under the direction of the Learning Associates based in Montreal. The Learning Associates have worked with the Cree School Board for the past five years visiting schools and evaluating children's academic difficulties. People who are often described as being learning disabled, dyslexic, poor readers or underachievers are prime candidates for the SpellRead course. Dyslexia affects about 5 per cent of Natives and non–Natives and has nothing to do with intelligence. People who have trouble reading often don't associate the 44 sounds used in the English language automatically when you read. Most people pick up this skill on their own. Those that didn't had to learn somehow, somewhere.

Kay MacPhee, a teacher who worked with the deaf began to apply her work to non–deaf students. The results were nothing short of amazing. Some students who were stuck in remedial classes surged ahead three grade levels in one year. In November 1994 MacPhee started SpellRead after meeting Kay Reeves, a businessperson, who couldn't spell. The only word Reeves could write before the course was her own name. "I felt stupid, defeated, worthless," Reeves remembers. Reeves was one of a class of frustrated adults with reading and spelling problems. Reeves said that if the program was going to be easy, "I'm going to be mad." "You're going to be mad," was the reply. After the course Reeves said she has more respect for herself and was "ashamed" she spent so many wasted years thinking she was dumb.

It is such a success that it is being offered for free in schools in Prince Edward Island, where it was developed. A study on the program had Neuropsychologist Wayne MacDonald comment that "It was one of the most effective programs in the field of adult remedial reading and writing skill development." Human Resources Development Canada sends a steady supply of students to the school because of its success rates. MacPhee says the HRDC is amazed because they have a zero percent dropout rate.
Lance can understand this having been "accommodated" most of his life. Accommodation is where somebody reads the exam for you. It's how he's passed most of his courses to date. In SpellRead, Lance has studied two hours a day for one month. "We're proud of the students and they've made one to two years progress in one month." Says Learning Associates Vivian Huizenga. Lance scores for reading comprehension are in and he has advanced four grade levels in just one month. Lance will be continuing the program for another month but is applying to continue until December in order to increase his reading order.
Lance wants these reading and spelling skills so he can have an easier time when he enters EGEP. I can't even imagine entering college without being able to access books on my own. Huizenga said all the Cree students were on time, excited and given hope by the program. "They all wanted to read," she said.
Mabel Herodier, Chairperson of the Cree School Board has visited the program while the Cree students were taking it and was impressed. Betsy Matches, an educator from Chisasibi's James Bay Eeyou School, says she has gotten a few ideas from the course that will help her teach back in the community. She was down here with Phyllis Sealhunter, one of the Cree Students. The other students were Gideon Iseroff, Ruby Mianscum, Ronald Blacksmith, Leroy Diamond, Jeremy Bishop, Mark Cheechoo, Richard Sealhunter, Saskia Cohen, and Lance Blacksmith.
Lance is hoping to become the first Cree gym teacher who isn't a substitute and says he has and always will love school.
Lance told the Nation, "I have friends who know how to read but they don't use that skill. They just stay at home and watch TV or something like that."
It kind of makes you wonder just how much we take for granted in this world of ours.

To my fellow Eeyouch

Under the negotiation process set up by Premier Bouchard and myself, we are now completing agreements with Quebec for community projects.

The projects that will go ahead under the agreement were decided upon in the Memorandum of Understanding but problems with funding had prevented further progress and in some cases completion of work already started.

I congratulate Deputy Minister Sauvé for his efforts to resolve this outstanding business.

Our discussions with Canada are also progressing well in a variety of areas from social and environmental protections to human resource development to funding for the Cree Trappers Association to our agreement with Canada on immediate sanitary infrastructure projects for the communities.

The work with Minister Nault is also beginning to yield positive results in respect to some of the matters concerning the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

By working together we are beginning to demonstrate that we can resolve some of our long outstanding differences.

However while we are presently making some progress we will have to continue to impress upon the government the importance of our rights including those stemming from the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and international law.

Grand Chief Ted Moses

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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Astchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Astchee)

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Cree Regional Authority
Administration Régionale Crie

PRAIRIE DAYS

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

Tonight I am writing this from my room in the historic St. Regis Hotel in downtown Winnipeg. For the last couple of hours I have been entertained by the awesome light show of a passing thunderstorm. I am happy that we were smart enough to make the decision to stop in downtown Winnipeg and park our motorcycles. Motorcycling in the rain is not easy and can be dangerous.

This is my first trip to Winnipeg and I am amazed at the large number of First Nations people I see here. I have heard stories about gangs in this city but so far my own limited experience tonight has been good. The downtown core has an interesting mix of historical buildings like the St. Regis Hotel and newer concrete, steel and glass multilevel structures.

I understand that the St. Regis is very popular among First Nation people. Most of the clientele I have seen here tonight are Native. Obviously, the owners of the hotel realize who their clientele is. Other hotels, especially those frequented by First Nation people, could take a lesson from the St. Regis.

The décor in the lobby very much reflects Native heritage with artwork and craftwork on the walls. Even the wall paper accent in my room is in a Native style. First nation people are celebrated in this hotel and that makes me feel good. In my limited travels across Canada this is the first time that I have seen such a First Nation presence in a major city downtown hotel.

For the past few days myself and my friend Mike have been rolling across the prairies on our motorcycles. There is a constant and strong presence of First Nation people all across the land in communities not far off the beaten track. Sometimes while I am riding through the vast openness of the prairies I am reminded of the muskeg flats on my own land on the James Bay coast. Earlier today I spotted the storm raging over this city on the horizon. It took the whole day to reach it.

Riding a motorcycle across this country is not easy. I find that it takes great concentration and strength to move safely along straight stretches of road that seem to go on forever. Sometimes I imagine myself as a young warrior on a horse riding free through the prairie pasture land. I conjure up another time when the people roamed this land. How peaceful it must have been to be part of a moving community that flowed over the land with the movement of the buffalo. This life must have been wonderful with few worries as there were plenty of buffalo for food and mother earth smiled on us all day long.

I have had my magical moments out here on the prairies. While Mike and I were parked on the side of the Trans-Canada admiring rolling hills near swift current, Saskatchewan a friend of ours Peter Sackaney, drove up and joined us in our pause on the prairie. It was very strange to meet Pete here in the middle of nowhere. He is a First Nation person who works as a drug and alcohol counselor at the Friendship Centre in Kapuskasing, Ontario. He was heading west to attend a major Friendship Centre national conference in Vancouver.

Tomorrow, we will make our way back to Ontario and I must say I am looking forward to those winding roads and rolling terrain. A fond farewell to the prairies.

FAAY

FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ABORIGINAL YOUTH

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Gone and Married

Deantha and her dad

One of our favourite people has left the Nation for the best of reasons. On Saturday July 28th Deantha Edmunds changed her name to Deantha Gallant. Darren Gallant was the lucky soul to capture Deantha's heart.

Many Crees had an opportunity to get know Deantha's warm personality while she worked in our offices. More than a few people in Mistissini will remember Darren as he taught in that community. Both him and Deantha will be moving to Ouje-Bougoumou as Darren has a job teaching there.

It was a beautiful wedding with many tears of joy and we at the Nation wish the new couple the best in their future together.

Since so many Crees know both of them we thought we'd share a bit of the wedding with those of you who couldn't make it.

Just married!!!!

The flower girl having a little fun with the photographeress

continued from page 13

Women excluded

Women have not only been excluded from education, but also from development projects. Isabel Alcón, a Chalchiteca of the Women's Forum, says, "It is difficult for women to participate. I think it is a slow process because women have always been abandoned and forgotten. But the Peace Accords have opened up spaces for women and we will eventually find our own solutions."

For me, Juana Pedro, a 22-year old Q'anjob'al woman, and the group she works with, embody the struggle as well as the optimism of women working to improve development in their communities.

> In the Instituto Mayance there is no fear of hearing a once-common reprimand, "Don't be an Indian!"

Juana is the president of the Committee of Ixmucané Women, a group of 12 women who have received credit and training from CECI-AID (a joint venture between the Centre Canadien d'Etudes et de Cooperation Internacionale and USAID), which began to work in Barillas, Huehuetenango, after the signing of the Peace Accords.

CECI-AID, seeing the exclusion of women from development, began to give credit at 12 percent annually to 16 groups of women with small project proposals.

Juana's group solicited just under $2,000, so her group could buy and run a gasoline-powered corn grinder. Tortillas, a flat corn bread, are the staple food in Guatemala, but require much preparation, especially in areas like Yulmacap, Huehuetenango, where there is no electricity.

Women spend several hours a day grinding the corn by hand, so an electric corn-grinder saves many women a lot of time. Juana's group hoped the revenues would improve their standard of living. As it turns out, these women have found the business's income does not always cover its costs as well as pay off the credit. This means that rather than make money from the project, they must invest some of their own scarce resources to keep up with payments.

This type of detail does not appear in CECI-AID reports that focus on the fact that most of the women's groups are not defaulting on their loans. One Canadian CECI volunteer complained that, "Development organizations often support the projects THEY want and what looks good. They don't necessarily support what the people need." He says most development organizations are self-serving and calls them the "new missionaries of neo-colonialism."

Lourdes Ortiz, a Kaqchikel who co-ordinates the women's projects at CECI-AID, admits, "These grinder projects will never be very lucrative." However, she adds, "These projects give the women a chance to get involved and to realize they can make decisions and run projects."

The women I met were certainly eager to continue with the project despite shortcomings.

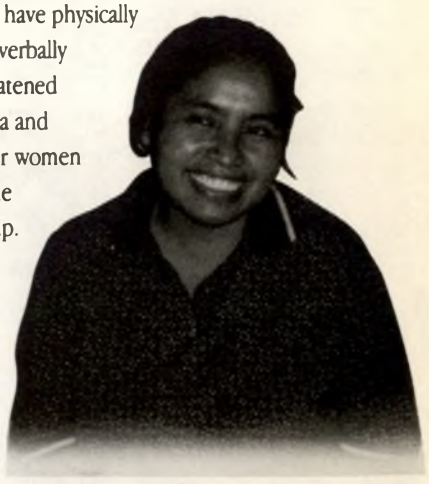
Teresa Morales, a Q'anjob'al CECI-AID promoter who trained as a bilingual teacher, says one obstacle is a lack of education. "We are opening up spaces for the women to be able to work. But if they could read and write they would have so much more capacity to develop their communities, to propose new projects and be more independent." CECI-AID promoters are now encouraging women in their groups to start an adult-literacy program.

Juana's mother Josefina, who is also a member of the corn-grinder business in Yulmacap, tells me proudly in Q'anjob'al, "Even though I am very old I am going to learn to read and write, that way I can help more."

Juana is the only literate woman in her group, and she is one of few who speaks Spanish, making the group very dependent on her. "I can't leave the project," she says. "If I leave, all the women will leave too, and they will be disillusioned because I have told them we have to continue in spite of problems. If we don't continue we will lose this opportunity. I have said to the women we will be successful and we will demonstrate to the community that not only men can do things."

Like most of the members, Juana has considered withdrawing from the group. Only her desire to "move ahead and work with her neighbours" has kept her from resigning. As a community organizer and a single mother – the child is the result of a rape that she is trying to denounce legally - Juana breaks many of the unwritten rules regarding women in Yulmacap, and has encountered much resistance from men and even some women in the community.

Men have physically and verbally threatened Juana and other women in the group.



Many women return from group meetings to abusive husbands who oppose their participation and some of these husbands have told Juana they want the project to end.

Dilma Tello, a Ladina social worker and CECI-AID promoter who has learned Q'anqob'al with these women, says the structures of the projects have ignored the emotional needs of the women and the cultural obstacles they face.

Within rigid structures, however, the closeness I saw between Dilma and the women in Yulmacap leads me to believe good people can still make a difference. So-called development is complex and has traditionally only really served to benefit those in power, be they national or international.

But if, as Lourdes Ortiz says, 12 women in Yulmacap are left "with new abilities and new possibilities," and if dedicated people continue to work within the system, things will change.

Normand Roy, an openly critical Canadian cooperant at CECI, makes a good point when I say the situation seems depressing.

"It is not depressing," he says. "I think human development is one of the most difficult tasks. We are not simply building a plane or something. It won't happen overnight."

Perhaps when Juana's little girl grows up, women in Yulmacap won't be afraid to organize meetings and perhaps there will be a CNEM-sponsored school nearby. As Juana tearfully talks about the "the sorrows she has lived," she sighs, "God-willing, life will be easier for my daughter."

In Guatemala, change is slow and life is hard, but hopefully the seeds of development planted by people like Juana Pedro and Cesar Teny will make things easier for the next generation.

Produced with the support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Cree Nation Invitational Tournament

1st Annual CNIT-GOLF TOURNAMENT 2000

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 8, 2000**

LOCATION: **VAL D'OR, QC**
'Siscoe Golf Club'

REGISTRATION COST: **$125.00/PERSON**
(Team of Four)

For more Information or if you want to register your team or yourself, please contact our Golf Coordinator:

Maurice Kistabish : Home: 819-732-4563
Cell: 819-856-9786
Fax: 819-732-7678

or contact:

JB Loon: 418-923-3461 ext. 322

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Cree Nation Invitational Tournament (CNIT)
Fastball & **Softball** Edition

Dates: **August 24-27, 2000.**
Location: **Val D'or, QC**
Team Registration Deadline: **Friday, August 11, 2000.**

Double-Elimination-Consolation Format

We are expecting over forty (40) teams to participate in this event. We will be giving away cash and prizes over $30,000.00 and will be disbursed as follows.

Category	#Teams	Entry Fee	Awards	Registrar
Men's Fastball	8-16 teams	$1,500.00	Champs: $6,000 Finalists: $3,000 Consolation Champions: $1,500 Runner-up: $500 Semi-final Losers: 2X $500	Gordon Sandy Whap. 819-929-3694 - Tel 819-929-3303 - Fax
Men's Softball (Open Class)	16 Teams	$1,000.00	Champs: $5,000 Finalists: $2,500 Consolation Champions $1,500 Runner-up: $500 Semi-final Losers:2 x $500	Jack Ottereyes Waswanipi 819-753-2450 - Tel 819-753-2896 - Fax
Women's Softball (Open Class)	16 Teams	$1,000.00	Champs: $5,000 Finalists: $2,500 Consolation Champions: $1,500 Runner-up: $500 Semi-final Losers: 2 x $500	Roger Weapinecappo Eastmain 819-977-2262 - Tel 819-977-2263 - Fax

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100- BIRTHS

I would like to congratulate my best friend Christina Matoush on her new baby girl (Mary Lee Matoush) on June 20, 2000. Hope to see you both really soon. With love in friendship Amoo and Waaseskun. P.S.Hope you have a good night sleep Christina. P.S.S. Waaseskun can't wait to see Mary Lee.

Welcoming the new little arrival: Yasmine Summer Raine, born on July the 27th, a little girl, what joy! Congratulations to the proud parents: Aaron Neeposh and Rachelle Lafond. We know you will take the very best care of little Yasmine. We hope you will bring her to Nemaska very soon. All our love: Darius and Terrance Wapachee.

101- BIRTHDAYS

Wishing a happy birthday to these special people: my brother Freddie on July 9; my Mom Doris on July 21; my neice Selena on Aug. 7 - celebrating 2nd birthday; my Granny Helen on Aug. 2; my aunties Virginia on Aug 1, Sally on Aug 3, Bessie on Aug 17, Marjorie on Aug 20; my sister in law Tina on Aug 15; my uncles William Hester on Aug 27, Howard Hester on Aug 31. Happy Birthday to you all! And many more to come. Love you all! Janet.

Special birthday greetings going out to our two sisters, Kristen on August 16 and Melanie on August 28. Happy birthday gals. OH! We wanted to tell you that we love you both girls so much. With love your only bro Aaronsh and your two sisters Esther and Pierrette. P.S. Kristen listen to whatever mom tells you to do or not to do. Take care to both of youz.

These special greetings are sent to both my parents. My mom Virginia, who will be celebrating her birthday on August 4, and also to my dad Allan who will be celebrating his on August 11. Happy birthday to you both, and I love you both so much. From your daughter who is in Waskaganish. P.S.Dad PLEASE don't drink, not even a shot. PLEASE do it for me.

Happy Birthday to Charlene Bosum on July 20, 2000. Many more to come and enjoy will you still can. From sis Minnie, Clint, Allison, Kirk.

July 27th is a very special day for our daughter and friend Amanda Corraine Voyageur, because it's her 16th birthday! Our little angel came into this world on July 2th, 1984 (Val D'or) at 1:50 am, weighing 7lbs 13 oz. Amanda, as you celebrate another birthday we can't help remembering the day you were born and we can't help wondering where the years have gone since you were just our little girl, reaching out for us to hold you, to protect you, to love you. We hope you know that we're still here to hold you, to protect you when you want us to and always, always to love you. Happy Birthday, may all your hopes, dreams and wishes come true as you blow out your 16 candles. All our love, Mom and Dad.

Birthday wishes for a wonderful sister and friend, Amanda Voyageur. Having you as a sister has been wonderful and produced many happy memories. Through tough times and good times, you will always be a special part of our shared life together. You make the world more beautiful just by being in it. Happy 16th Birthday! On July 27th, 2000. May your heart always be young and your dreams live forever. With love, your sisters and brothers.

We would like to wish someone special a Happy Birthday on July 26, 2000. This special person is from Mistissini and lives at 131 Mary Voyageur St. Guess who? Yes, You! Grandma, Mary Voyageur Sr. May this day be special as you are! We love you Grandma. From your grandchildren in Chisasibi.

Sorry we're late! Happy belated birthdays to the following people: Curtis Ratt on July 1, our dad, Michael on July 11, Angelina on July 19, from Chris, Jeannie on July 3, Neil on July 7, Nikita on July 15, Robert on July 22, form Mist. Hope your birthdays were great! From all of us at 115 Beaver Creek (Chis.)

Happy Belated Birthday to my sister in law, Sherry-Ann Loutitt Wapachee who celebrated her day on July 31. I want to wish you all the best and let you know that I consider you as my own sister. You are a beautiful person inside and out. Take care. With love, Charlotte.

We would like to send birthday greetings to our son Norman Neeposh on July 9 and to our daughter Rosie Neeposh on July 18. We would like to thank God for letting us have you for another year. We both wish you the best and may God continue to bless you with many more. Love always, Mom and Dad.

Happy 2nd Birthday to Desmond Pepabano on August 14, 2000. Hoping your birthday will be special as you are and you have fun blowing out your two candles. Love u always and 4ever, with all my love, your Mom Deborah. xoxoxo

Happy 3rd Birthday to Eric-Lee Pepabano on August 18, 2000. Hope your birthday is full of fun and laughter. Love u. Love always Deborah and Desmond. xoxoxo

On June 30th, someone very special to us celebrated her 13th birthday, to our only child, our daughter Natasha Loon. 13 years ago, when you came into this world you were so small & precious, now you are turning out to be a beautiful young lady. Remember that you are still our baby. You have brought so much joy, happiness & laughter into our lives. We thank the lord for giving us the pleasure of raising a beautiful daughter. With love from your parents, Natalie & Donald Matoush

July 11, 2000. Someone special to us will be celebrating his 2nd birthday. To Christopher-Robin Wallace House, happy birthday, birthday boy! I thank God for you still being here with us, for you have fought your life. I thank him for watching over you and keeping you more healthier! May you have fun! And enjoy the birthday party. with lots of love, Mom & Dad (Racheal & Allen) and your little bro, Tyreese. XOX

Happy birthday on the 22nd and happy father's day on the 16th to a very special father, Allen House. Dad, thanx a million for everything. For the love, for making us laugh, for playing with us and especially for keeping us when mommy needs a break. Through good times and bad times, Dad we love you always! From your sons, Christopher-Robin and Tyreese House. XOX (Better late than never)

Happy Birthday to a wonderful aunt of ours, Charlene Blacksmith on the 18th of July, 2000. May your day be filled with lots of love, laughs and especially fun! May you eat lots of "pizza" your favorite! you pizza freak, Joke! Never forget that we love you. Your nephews, Christopher-Robin and Tyresse House,

On June 30th, someone very special to us celebrated her 13th birthday, to our only child, our daughter Natasha Loon. 13 years ago, when you came into this world you were so small & precious, now you are turning out to be a beautiful young lady. Remember that you are still our baby. You have brought so much joy, happiness & laughter into our lives. We thank the lord for giving us the pleasure of raising a beautiful daughter. With love from your parents, Natalie & Donald Matoush

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Happy Birthday to my Curley Sue-Andree-Ann on July 27. You are a very Special Person in my life. I love you always. You are my treasure, my love, my world. My everything. Lots of hugs/kisses MOM.

I would like to say Happy Birthday to Conrad Happyjack on July 16th. So, how's summer school? Is it hard? I hope that you pass. Don't party too much. From a girl in Waswanipi.

103 - ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to send our best wishes to Thomas and Annie Pachano upon their 48th anniversary on July 24, 2000.

Happy 15th Anniversary to Jeannie and Henry on July 11th, and Happy 14th Anniversary to Jacqueline and Daniel on July 11th, 2000. Ma all our plans and dreams come true, and may you have a lifetime of joy and happiness together! From your oldest brother who had he 3? birthday on that date. (Chris)

104- GRADUATIONS

We would like to extend our congratulations to our children Tommy and April Neeposh upon their graduations from Secondary Five. We would like to further congratulate April upon winning the Honour Stole, the Governor-General's Medal, the Cree-Naskapi Commission Plaque and the Georgie Weistche Scholarship Award. May God bless and guide you in whatever you plan to do to follow your dreams. Love always, Mom and Dad.

We would like to congratulate Eleanor Gull, Christina Gull, Bobby Happyjack & Conrad Happyjack who just finished high school at W.J.H.M. high school in Waswanipi. They will be graduation on August 11, 2000. Have a great summer. Can't wait for the graduation day to see you all. From Sandra & Teddy Happyjack.

Congratulations to Eleanor Gull who just finished high school at W.J.H.M. school who will be graduating on August 11, 2000. We are so proud of you Eleanor we wish you the best in College. We will miss you if you go to College especially you son Dawson (do your best Mom). Love Always, Your Parents (Sandra and Teddy) and your son Dawson. XOXO

I am delighted to congratulate my dear niece Eleanor Gull, who graduated from

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high school at W.J.H.M.S. I am so proud of you and so happy for you. You have grown so fast and became such a beautiful intelligent young woman. There is greater world out there for you to discover and acknowledge. I am always with you no matter how far you are, I'll be thinking of you always. Love Always Your Aunt Delores Gull XXXX1/2.

I am so happy to congratulate Eleanor Gull, Wayne Mathias, Christina Gull, Conrad Happyjack, Wilma-Lee Neeposh, and Bobby Happyjack. Graduating from high school is one of your goals this year and you achieved it. Congratulations again and I wish you all the best in everything you do. Your friend Delores Gull XXXXXX1/2

I would like to congratulate my friend Virginia Sheshamush on gratduating from highschool in B.E.S. I just wanted you to know how proud I am for you and I wish you the best of luck on your studies down south. From you friend in Whapmagoostui (WHAAZAA!!)

300 - PERSONALS

A humongous hello to Nikita Shecapio-Blsmith. Hey, I hope you won't end up in I.P.L. Are you ever going to come to Mistissini someday? Because we miss ya a lot. From Marajuana et C-C-Naboo

Just like to say a Big Hello to Abraham Icebound in Waswanipi. Hey how are you doing there? Me it's okay. Don't party too much like before (joke). Hope to see you soon in Waswanipi or Mistissini. From your girl in Mistissini xoxoxo

To: Eric Happyjack. I'm happy you are here you don't know how much you mean to me. You're a caring and loving person. Deep in my heart I do love you even though I don't say it much. I love you Eric! Love always Pauline

We would like to say HI! to our friend Juanita Gull. She went to Waskaganish for summer school. She is staying there for a month. We miss you a lot already we don't know where to hang out anymore. Remember the night before you left? You asked us to send you something and guess what we did, It's coming! Don't get your hopes too high. (Just Joking) FROM FRIENDS ALWAYS: AM IB MN JB KN LS (WASWANIPI)

Since I don't know your address I just wanted you to know about our 15th great Quebec Native Women's Ministries Retreat Sept. 8-10, 00 at the Confortel, Val D'or. We always love seeing you and your family. You are invited to this special event once again, Maryann, Marilyn, Sarah Jewel and Emma Beth Cooncome. Call Dorothy Gull for details (819) 753-2745 Blessings.

Hello! To the cute guy, Mr. Cool he know who he is. I want to touch you again. I miss your arms around me and your sweet kisses. All my life, I wish you're mine. I loved you ever since the night we met each other. I'll never forget how we met. Your Girl.

Just thought of saying a quick Hello! to these guys: Dragon, Luigi, Mariyo and Toad. I miss talking to you boys. Luigi, I'm really truly so sorry of what I did to you, remember? That's last I heard your voice. I hope I'll get to talk to you soon. Forgive me. I'm really sorry. And Toad, no more stone cold nights for you, too bad, ehh! And Mariyo, keep playing your guitar, maybe someday you'll be a good metallica guitarist (and singer too) You guys take care okay? From: old buddy of yours Guess???

To these party animals form Waskaganish, Janice Moar, Lorraine Jolly, Mindy Georgekish and Shannon Salt. So, when's our next party girls? We'll party when I get back but don't party too much without me. From: Someone at camp 257

To Annette and Mariah Diamond. I would like to say how much I miss you both, not a single day goes by that I don't think of you both. It's hard for me to work everyday and be alone. But I have to find a way to support my loved ones. The past few months I've been working very hard night and day. I was grateful that I had the chance to visit you on my holidays. Thank you for being there for me! See ya! Your endless love, Jimbo

Me and my friend, we used to have fun together, I don't know what happened between the two of us. It's been a long time since I had a talk with her but I hope someday we'll have fun again like we used to have. I know in my heart that we will be friends again. And I feel in my heart that I care about her as my friend. And I would like to wish her a happy ?? birthday on Sept.3. On that special day, I hope you won't party too much. Take care! Once again, happy birthday. From: your long lost friend. P.S. I miss you lots buddy.

Just thought of saying a quick Hello to these guys: Dragon, Luigi, Mariyo and Toad. I mess talking to you boys. Luigi, I'm really truly so sorry for what I did to you, remember? That's last I heard your voice. I hope I'll get to talk to you soon. Forgive me. I'm really sorry. And Toad, no more stone cold nights for you, too bad, eh? And Mariyo, keep playing your guitar, maybe someday you'll be a good metallica guitarist (and singer too). You guys take care, okay? From an old buddy of yours. Guess???

This goes out to a girl in Waskaganish. Her name is Della Jane Hester. It's been a long time since we talked. I miss your voice. When will we finally meet each other. Love your secret admirer in Waswanipi. Love ya and miss ya.

A big hello going out to my friends in Nemaska, Natacha Moar and Jessica Wapachee and also to my friend in Waskaganish Marlene Shecapio. So girls, how's life treating you? Well, as for me, I'm just doing great... hope to see you all soon. From friend Melanie Gunner (Mist.) PS Marlene, write to me. My address in Mistissini Lake, QC G0W 1C0. P.O. Box 32. Hope to hear from you. Bye bye...

400 - EVENTS

Broken Promises, Shattered Dreams, Homosexuality, Aids, Death, Drugs, Runaway Teen, Grief, Depression, Anger and Forgiveness, Overcoming and Victory. Come hear Anna Rust of Montreal at the Quebec Native Women's Ministries Retreat. September 8-10, Val D'or. Call Dorothy Gull, register (819) 753-2745 or 753-2388. Early Bird Special.

Moms and teenage daughters do you want a special weekend together of fun, fellowship, great teaching, outrageous joy and worship? Then the Quebec Native Women's Ministries Retreat....September 8-10 at the Confortel, Val D'or is for YOU. Register with Dorothy Gull (819) 753-2745 or 2388 today. "Guided by God in the New Millenium"

I'd like to wish a happy Father's Day to two special men in my life, my father, Billy, I LOVE YOU, thank you for your loving and support. And to my love Clint St-Gelais. I may not often tell you all the feelings in my heart, the special dreams and hopes and plans of which you are a part...But still, at least to some degree, How much you mean to me. With Love always to both of you on this day and 4-ever. Minnie Capssisit.

Father's Day wish. Happy 1st Father's Day to our daddy, Clint. We love you so much. Have a great day. Love Allison and Kirk.

500 - MISC.

I would like to send congratulations to Matthew Coon-Come upon winning the election for National Chief. May God continue to hold your hand as you travel through this land. Stephen Neeposh

To a special graduate: Congratulations! To Mabel Wapachee from Mistissini in obtaining her Bachelors in Law and a Minor in Anthropology at Carleton University, in Ottawa, on June 15, 2000. We are very proud of you. Also, congratulations! on your upcoming wedding in July. We are certain you will make a beautiful bride. With much love your family and friends. Alex says, "You go, woman."

After 22 years with the Cree School Board as Cree Culture Teachers, I would like to wish my sister, Margaret Bearskin and her husband, Sam, a very Happy Retirement, end of June 2000. Now that you don't have to go by the clock, enjoy your retirement and do all the things you do best! Your sister and sister-in-law, Nellie

Little JOSEPHINE VISITOR caught her first fish on Friday, June 30th. She gave it to us after having her picture taken. We are sure you will catch many more! Thank you Josephine, we love you very much. OXOXOXOX From the folks at G#-13 in Chisasibi

105- OBITUARIES

In loving memory of our dear sister Emma (Washipabano) Swallow.

Mother of Arlene and Keith Swallow, who left this world far too soon on July 17th, 1999. We still miss you greatly, but we are glad you are with the Lord.We see your smiling face and hear your laughter in the world around us.Your love is always with us.Until we meet again. From all your sisters and brothers: Mina Fireman, Margaret Wadden, Daisy Bobbish, Edith Head, Robert Wash and Clifford Wash.

On July 19, 1998. My cousin Carol Matches-Snowboy left her loved ones. When I first heard the doctors couldn't do more for her sickness, I was very sad because I knew I would lose my cousin not only my cousin she was also my friend. I also knew that we wouldn't share our laughter together anymore and I knew that I would not see her again on this earth. Carol, you left us so sudden but God has called you home. It's so hard for me to say Good-By but someday I will have the strength to let you go but not just now. I still have the memories the times we shared together especially the last time we way each other. I wish I knew at that time that it would be the last time that I would see you I would have told you that "I love you as my cousin: and I also would have said "Bye" not good-bye cause I know someday we will meet again. I will cherish the moments we shared together, you are sadly missed by your loved ones and we all love you. Rest in peace my cousin with love always your cousin: Edith Gunner

Saying Good Bye! to all the Cree Communities,and it is been great helping out! So take care and I wish you all the best! Sylvia xox

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